



National Child Care Information Center

A service of the Child Care Bureau

NCCIC

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE for EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Comprehensive professional development systems for early care and education personnel are accessible and based on a clearly articulated framework; include a continuum of training and ongoing supports; define pathways that are tied to licensure, leading to qualifications and credentials; and address the needs of individual, adult learners. Enhancing a spirit of life-long learning is one goal of any professional development system; similar to this goal, a professional development system itself is never a finished product and should continually evolve and be refined to best meet the needs of the population it serves.

Within professional development systems there are several interconnected components. These components fall under five broad elements: 1) Funding; 2) Core Knowledge; 3) Qualifications and Credentials; 4) Quality Assurances; and 5) Access and Outreach. A one-page document that outlines and defines this simplified framework is available on the Web at <http://nccic.org/pubs/goodstart/pdsystem.html> or in PDF format at <http://nccic.org/pubs/goodstart/pdsystem.pdf>.

Scholarships for professional development, courses, and degrees are a component of the Funding element of a professional development system. The following is a sample of organizations with information about sources of financial assistance, including financial aid, loans, and scholarships, some of which may be specific for early childhood educators. The organizations include State and local resources, a national organization with local affiliates, and Federal resources. Information about financial assistance also is available by contacting the financial aid offices in local colleges, universities, and technical colleges.

STATE and LOCAL RESOURCES

■ Many States have an early childhood education professional development Web site. A table with links to this information is available from NCCIC in the document titled *State Early Care and Education (ECE) Professional Development Web Sites*. This document is under the Workforce and Professional Development topic of NCCIC's Web site in the Popular Topics section at <http://nccic.org/pubs/goodstart/state-ece.html> in HTML format, and at <http://nccic.org/pubs/goodstart/state-ece.pdf> in PDF format. The table highlights information on professional development system elements and components (including funding). Other general professional development and early childhood education information and resources may also be provided via the listed Web links.

■ Child care licensing agencies can provide information specific to local requirements and regulations. The State Child Care Licensing Agency may have information about scholarships. NCCIC State Profiles includes contact information for each State Child Care Licensing Agency. NCCIC State Profiles are available on the Web in the State Data and Contacts section at <http://nccic.org/statedata/statepro/index.html>. A list of State Child Care Licensing Agencies is available on the Web in the State Data and Contacts section at <http://nccic.org/statedata/dirs/regoffic.html>.

■ Local child care resource and referral (CCR&Rs) agencies support child care providers with training and technical assistance to help improve the quality of child care, and they may have information about scholarships. Child Care Aware is a national initiative that can help you find the CCR&R in your area. Contact Child Care Aware at 800-424-2246 or on the Web at <http://www.childcareaware.org>.

■ **The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project**

c/o Child Care Services Association

P.O. Box 901

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

919-967-3272

World Wide Web: <http://www.childcareservices.org>

The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® Project gives scholarships to child care workers to complete course work in early childhood education and to increase their compensation. In 1990, Child Care Services Association created the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project to address the issues of under-education, poor compensation, and high turnover within the early childhood workforce. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project is an umbrella for a variety of different scholarship programs for teachers, directors, and family child care providers working in regulated child care programs in North Carolina and other States across the country. All T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships link continuing education with increased compensation and require that recipients and their sponsoring child care programs share in the cost. Additional information about the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project is available on the Web at http://www.childcareservices.org/TEACH/TEACH_Project.html.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project is operating in the following States: **Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina** (founding State), **Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin**. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Technical Assistance Center was founded in 2001 to assist States that are exploring the possibility or are in the early stages of developing T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Projects. Additional information, including T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® State Contacts, is available on the Web at <http://www.childcareservices.org/TEACH/T.E.A.C.H.-TA-Center.htm>.

■ State Higher Education Agencies provide information on State education programs, colleges and universities, financial aid assistance programs, grants, scholarships, continuing education programs, and career opportunities. Contact information for each State is available on the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org_list.cfm?category_ID=SHE.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Professional associations sometimes offer scholarship funds for students in early childhood degree programs through their local affiliates or branches. These groups may offer funds themselves, or may know of other sources of such funds in your region, such as particular colleges, service organizations, clubs, or businesses.

■ **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

1509 16th Street NW

Washington, DC 20036

800-424-2460 or 202-232-8777

World Wide Web: <http://www.naeyc.org>

NAEYC has a national network of local, State, and regional Affiliates. NAEYC Affiliate Groups work to improve professional practice and working conditions in early childhood education and to build public support for high-quality early childhood programs. Some of these Affiliates sponsor student scholarship programs. Information about Affiliates is available on the NAEYC Web site at <http://www.naeyc.org/affiliates/default.asp>.

FEDERAL RESOURCES

■ **U.S. Department of Education
Federal Student Aid (FSA)**

World Wide Web:

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>

The U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid programs are the largest source of student aid in America, providing nearly 70 percent of all student financial aid. Available resources include:

- *The Student Guide* is a comprehensive resource on student financial aid from the U.S. Department of Education. Grants, loans, and work-study are the three major forms of aid available through the Department's Federal Student Aid office. Updated each award year, *The Student Guide* explains the programs and how to apply for them. *The Student Guide* 2004-2005, for the July 1, 2004–June 30, 2005 award year, is available online in English and Spanish. To apply for Federal aid, and to apply for many State student aid programs, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Additional information is available on the Web at http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html.
- Information about FAFSA is available on the Web at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/fafsa.jsp> and <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.
- *Funding Your Education, 2004-2005, Junior High/High School Students*, an introductory publication for students below the senior year in high school, provides general information about the U.S. Department of Education's Federal student financial aid

programs and how to apply for them. *Funding Your Education, 2004-05*, for the July 1, 2004–June 30, 2005 award year, is available online in English. An online Spanish version is forthcoming. Additional information is available on the Web at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/FYE/index.html>.

For additional information, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at 800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or TTY 1-800-730-8913.

For additional information about Federal financial assistance for education, visit the following U.S. Department of Education Web sites:

- Overview of financial aid: <http://www.ed.gov/topics/topics.jsp?&top=Financial+Aid> and;
- Information about finding and applying for financial aid: <http://www.ed.gov/finaid/info/find/edpicks.jhtml?src=ov>.

For additional information about these resources, contact the U.S. Department of Education at 800-USA-LEARN (800-872-5327) or on the Web at <http://www.ed.gov>.

■ On August 5, 1997, both the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 were enacted. The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 provides for the Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credits.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued *Publication 970: Tax Benefits for Higher Education* to provide guidance on the higher education tax incentives enacted by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-34) in the *United States Statutes at Large* (111 Stat. 788).

Publication 970 (for use in preparing 2003 returns) is available on the Web at

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf>.

Tax information for students is available on the Web at

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/students/index.html>. For additional information, contact the IRS at 800-829-1040 or on the Web at <http://www.irs.gov>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

■ **FastWeb** provides scholarship information and tips on financial aid and careers. FastWeb is available on the Web at <http://fastweb.monster.com/index.ptml>.

■ **Mapping-Your-Future** is a Web site for students and parents with information on financial strategies, career options, and college planning. Mapping-Your-Future is available on the Web at <http://www.mapping-your-future.org>.

■ **Scholarships.com** is a free Web-based college scholarship search engine and financial aid information resource, connecting students and parents with college funding opportunities. This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.scholarships.com>.

The National Child Care Information Center does not endorse any organization, publication, or resource.

Updated October 2004